What is claimed is:

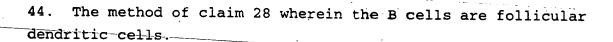
- A method for altering the humoral immune response in an animal comprising the step of
- a) administering a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a LT-B-R blocking agent.
- 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the LT-B-R blocking agent is selected from the group consisting of: soluble lymphotoxin-B receptor, an antibody directed against LT-B receptor, and an antibody directed against surface LT ligand.
- 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the animal is a mammal.
- 4. The method adcording to claim 3, wherein the mammal is a human.
- 5. The method according to claim 2, wherein the LT-B-R blocking agent comprises a soluble lymphotoxin-B receptor having a ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface LT ligand.
- 6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the soluble lymphotoxin-ß receptor comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.
- 7. The method according to claim 2, wherein the LT-B-R blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against LT-B receptor.

- The method according to claim 7, wherein the composition is administered in an amount sufficient to coat LT-B receptor-positive cells for about 1 to about 14 days.
- 9. The method according to claim 7, wherein the LT-B-R blocking agent comprises anti-human LT-B-R mAb BDA8.
- 10. The method according to claim 2, wherein the LT-B-R blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against surface LT ligand.
- 11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the composition is administered in an amount sufficient to coat surface LT ligand-positive cells for 1 to 14 days.
- 12. The method according to claim 10, wherein the antibody is directed against a subunit of the LT ligand.
- 13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the LT-B-R blocking agent comprises anti-human LT-B mAb B9.
- 14. The method according to claim 10, wherein the LT-B-R blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against a murine surface LT ligand.
- 15. The method of claim 1 further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or adjuvant
- 16. The method according to claim 1, wherein the humoral immune response is inhibited.
- 1/1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a LT- β -R blocking agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

- The composition according to claim 38, wherein the LT-B-R blocking agent is selected from the group consisting of a soluble lymphotoxin-B receptor, an antibody directed against LT-B receptor, and an antibody directed against surface LT ligand.
- 19. A method for inhibiting LT-B-R signaling without inhibiting TWF-R signaling comprising the step of administering to a subject an effective amount of a LT-B-R blocking agent.
- 20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the LT-B-R blocking agent is selected from the group consisting of a soluble lymphotoxin-B receptor, an antibody directed against LT-B receptor, and an antibody directed against surface LT ligand.
- 21. The method according to claim 19, wherein the subject comprises one or more cells from a mammal.
- 22. The method according to claim 21, wherein the mammal is a human.
- 23. The method according to claim 19, wherein the LT-B-R blocking agent comprises a soluble lymphotoxin-B receptor having a ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface LT ligand.
- 24. The method according to claim 23, wherein the soluble lymphotoxin-ß receptor further comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.
- 25. The method according to claim 19, wherein the LT-B-R blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against LT-B receptor.

- 26. The method according to claim 22, wherein the LT-B-R blocking agent comprises anti-human LT-B-R mAb BDA8.
- 27. The method according to claim 19, wherein the LT-B-R blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against surface LT ligand.
- 2 β . A method for altering the association of immune complexes and B cell follicles in a patient comprising administering an amount of an LT- β -R blocking agent to said patient.
- 29. The method of claim 28 wherein said patient is infected with human immunodeficiency virus.
- 30. The method of claim 28 wherein said blocking agent is selected from the group consisting of soluble LT- β -R, an antibody directed against LT- β -R, and an antibody directed against surface LT ligand.
- 31. The method of claim 30 wherein said soluble LT- β -R has a ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface LT ligand.
- 32. The method of claim 31 wherein said soluble receptor comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.
- 33. The method of claim 28 wherein the LT- β -R comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against LT- β -R.
- 34. The method of claim 33 wherein said antibody is anithuman LT- β -R mAb BDA8.

- 35. The method of claim 28 further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or adjuvant.
- 36. A method of treating, preventing, or eliminating human immunodeficiency virus in a mammal comprising the step of administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a LT- β -R blocking agent, and a pharmaceutically effective carrier.
- 37. The method of claim 36 wherein the LT- β -R blocking agent is selected from the group consisting of soluble lymphotoxin β -R, and antibody directed agains LT- β -R, and an antibody directed against surface LT ligand.
- 38. The method of claim 37 wherein the blocking agnet comprises a soluble lymphotoxin $-\beta$ -R comprising a ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface LT ligand.
- 39. The method of claim 38 wherein the soluble receptor comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.
- 40. The method of claim 36 wherein the LT- β -R blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against LT- β -R.
- 41. The method of claim 40 wherein the blocking agent comprises anit-human LT- β -R mAb BDA8.
- 42. The method of claim 36 wherein the blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against surface LT ligand.
- 43. The method of claim 36 further comprising the coadministration of an additional anti-viral agent.



- 45. A pharmaceutical composition for treating graft rejection comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a blocking agent of LT- β -R and a therapeutically effective amount of a blocking agent of CD40L.
- 46. The composition of claim 45 wherein the LT- β -R blocking agent is LT- β -R/IgG and the blocking agent of CD40L is an anti CD40L compound.
- 4π . A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of AIDS or HIV, comprising AZT, a protease inhibitor, and a blocking agent of LT- β -R.
- 48. The composition of claim 47 wherein the blocking agent is $LT-\beta-R/IgG$ fusion.
- 49. The composition of claim 46 wherein the anti-CD40L compound is a monoclonal antibody.
- 50. The composition of claim 49 wherein the antibodiy is 5c8.

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